

the actual death of the Councillor and that they were convicted of murder and sentenced to death only because the Court found that they had a "common purpose" with the actual perpetrators,

*Deeply concerned* at the decision on 13 June 1988 of the Pretoria Supreme Court to reject an appeal to reopen the case to ensure a fair trial,

*Deeply concerned also* at the Pretoria régime's decision to execute the Sharpeville Six in defiance of world-wide appeals,

*Convinced* that these executions, if carried out, will further inflame an already grave situation in South Africa,

1. *Calls once again upon* the South African authorities to stay execution and commute the death sentences imposed on the Sharpeville Six;

2. *Urges* all States and organizations to use their influence and take urgent measures, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council and relevant international instruments, to save the lives of the Sharpeville Six.

*Adopted unanimously at the 2817th meeting.*

### Decision

At its 2830th meeting, on 23 November 1988, the Council proceeded with the discussion of the item entitled

"The question of South Africa: letter dated 23 November 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20289)".<sup>34</sup>

### Resolution 623 (1988) of 23 November 1988

*The Security Council,*

*Having learned with grave concern* of the intention of the South African authorities to implement the death sentence imposed on Mr. Paul Tefo Setlaba, an anti-apartheid activist, on the basis of so-called "common purpose",

*Strongly urges* the Government of South Africa to stay execution and commute the death sentence imposed on Mr. Paul Tefo Setlaba in order to avoid further aggravating the situation in South Africa.

*Adopted at the 2830th meeting by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America).*

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement for October, November and December 1988.

## THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ<sup>35</sup>

### Decisions

At its 2798th meeting, on 16 March 1988, the Council proceeded with the discussion of the item entitled "The situation between Iran and Iraq".

At the same meeting, the President of the Council made the following statement:<sup>36</sup>

"Following consultations, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the members of the Council:

"The members of the Security Council express grave concern over the fact that the tragic conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq continues and has entered its eighth year.

"They strongly deplore the escalation of the hostilities between these two countries, particularly the attacks against civilian targets and cities that have

taken a heavy toll in human lives and caused vast material destruction, in spite of the declared readiness of the belligerent parties to cease such attacks.

"The members of the Council insist that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq immediately cease all such attacks and desist forthwith from all acts that lead to the escalation of the conflict and which thereby create further obstacles in the way of implementation of resolution 598 (1987) of 20 July 1987 and undermine the efforts of the Security Council to put an early end to this conflict in accordance with the resolution.

"They are convinced that the recent escalation has demonstrated the need for full and rapid implementation of resolution 598 (1987).

"Determined to bring the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq to an early end, the members of the Council reaffirm their strong commitment to the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) as an integrated whole, which is the only basis for a comprehensive, just, honourable and lasting settlement of the conflict.

"They express grave concern that resolution 598 (1987), which has a mandatory character, has not yet been implemented.

<sup>35</sup> Resolutions or decisions on this question were also adopted by the Council in 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987.

<sup>36</sup> S/19626.